

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Soviet Operation of Gold Mines, Manchuria

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. In 1950, the Soviets were operating the following gold mines in Manchuria:

- a. Mines of the K'ai Yuan (開原) Mining Company at Tangyuan Hsien (129-53, 46-42); the principal mine is in the Ho Chin (赫金) River valley between the Wutung (130-47) and Tangwang Rivers (129-47). These mines, taken over in January 1948, were the first mines in the northeast to be taken over by the Soviets.
- b. Mines of the Moho (122-21, 53-26) Mining Company on the right bank of the Amur River in the northeastern section of Hsing An Ling (興安嶺). Formerly this was the largest gold-producing mine in China. Since March 1949, the Soviets have had sole supervision of these mines. Technicians were being sent to the mining area during 1950, and workers are not permitted to leave the mine and receive only their food as pay.
- c. Mining areas in the Sungari River valley along the right bank of the Wutung and Tangwang Rivers.
- d. Mines of the Hu Ma (呼瑪) Mining Company in the Humaerh (125-51) River valley.
- e. Mines of the Pong Yuan (蓬源) Mining Company in tributaries of the Papiehla (127-50) at Chu Tu Tzu Ho (猪子河), Santeckou (127-24, 50-03), Szu Tao Kou (四道溝), Wu Tao Kou (五道溝), and Ch'i Tao Kou (七道溝). The Soviets were employing 1,530 men at these mines in 1950, most of whom were from Dairen.

2. On 18 March 1950, 25 Soviet technicians headed by Chi lo-szu (基洛斯) (? Zhilov) arrived in Harbin from Manchouli. They were received at T'ai Yang Tao (太陽島) by the deputy chairman of Heilungchiang Province and by secretaries-general of the Harbin Communist Party JAO Pin (饒斌) and YU Shih-mo (俞西模). The technicians were provided food and lodgings at T'ai Yang Tao, and, during their stay there, they employed 165 experienced gold miners, including 102 Chinese, and 63 Japanese, Koreans, and Russian emigres. On 24 April the technicians and gold miners left Harbin in five groups for five gold mining areas. The first group of 81 men went to the Amur River valley, the second group of

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40 men to the O Erh Na (额尔纳) River* valley, the third group of 30 men to the Sungari River valley, the fourth group of 21 men to the Mutanchiang (129-44-) valley, and the fifth group of 19 men to the Wenchiang (125- , 49-) valley.

3. The Chinese gold miners were paid under two systems. Fourteen received their clothing, food, lodging, transportation, and pocket money as pay. The other Chinese were paid in millet at one of the following three monthly rates: 1,100 catties, 700 catties, or 600 catties. All miners received free food and lodging while en route to their destination.

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- * Comment: Possibly the Oerhkuna (120- , 52-) River is intended. Two gold mining companies, the Ch'i Kan Ho (奇乾河) Mining Company, and Chi La Lin (支拉林) Mining Company were established on the right bank of this river in 1913 and 1914 respectively.

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